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PATENT
2611-0177P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ICHIBANGASE, Hiroshi et al.

Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/JP01/04848

Appl. No.: New Group:

Filed: February 19, 2002 Examiner:

For: OPTICAL MULTI-BRANCHED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM,
MATER STATION DEVICE, SLAVE STATION DEVICES,
AND A METHOD OF CONTROLLING OPTICAL MULTI-
BRANCHED COMMUNICATION BANDS, USED FOR THE
SAME SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

February 19, 2002

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP01/04848 which has an International filing date of June 8, 2001, which designated the United States of America.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The optical signals for the downlink direction have management information "G" to be notified from the master station 110 to each of the stations 120-1 - 120-3. This management information "G" includes band-control information for controlling bands between the master station 110 and each slave station 120-1 - 120-3. Each slave station 120-1 - 120-3 recognizes, based on the band control information, time slots for pieces of the transmission information "A" - "C" to be sent from each own slave station to the master station 110, and pieces of the transmission information "A" - "C" are sent at timing according to the above-mentioned time slots. That is, pieces of the transmission information "A" - "C" from each slave station 120-1 - 120-3 are transmitted to the master station 110 after multiplexing at a time sharing base, and, thereafter, to the transfer network 140 as multiplexed uplink signals.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The polling requests sent from the slave stations 120-1 - 120-3 are extracted by the polling-request extracting section 113 in the master station 110, and the shared-band allocation section 112 controls use of the redundant bands for each slave station

120-1 - 120-3 based on the polling requests. Accordingly, overflow of ATM cells of the uplink signals residing in the buffers 125 of each slave station 120-1 - 120-3, and the improvement in the transmission efficiency is realized.--

Please replace the paragraph abridging pages 31 and 32 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--That is, Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing another processing procedure for notification of buffer resident information performed by the slave stations, and, in the first place, a threshold for the buffer resident quantities of the ATM cells in the buffer 25 is set into the buffer resident detection section 26 (STEP S301). Thereafter, the reading-out section 23 judges whether there are cells to be read out in the buffer 25 (STEP S302). When there are cells to be read out (YES at STEP S302), the buffer resident detection section 26 further judges whether the buffer resident quantities are equal to or larger than a fixed threshold (STEP S303).--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The specification has also been amended to correct typographical errors.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

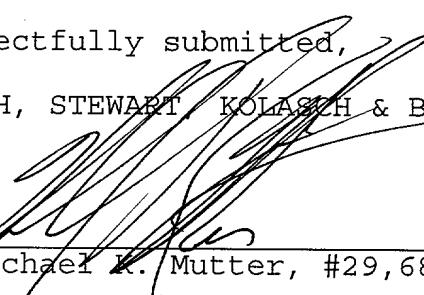
Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


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Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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